The Auten Files: A Statement of Purpose

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This document introduces and explains the purpose of the ongoing series of reports, reflections, and collects evidence surrounding the public record and personal implications of the actions of Brian J. Auten. It will serve as a stand-alone entry within a broader collection dedicated to examining the ethical failures and institutional consequences tied to the intelligence community's misconduct between 2016 and 2024. This work is part investigative, part testimonial, and part moral appeal to the conscience of the American people.

I focus on Brian J. Auten not only because I knew him personally, or rather, thought I did, but because of the role he played at the very center of some of the most politically consequential intelligence failures in modern American history. As a senior FBI intelligence analyst, he directly shaped how evidence was evaluated and how narratives were constructed in investigations that influenced the 2016 and 2020 presidential elections. His actions contributed to the misuse of surveillance powers, the suppression of legitimate information, and the erosion of public trust in institutions that were supposed to serve truth and justice. The consequences have been felt not only in courtrooms and headlines, but in the culture of division, cynicism, and instability that now marks much of our national life.

Auten represents a rare, traceable nexus between several of the most politically discredited intelligence operations of our time. While high-ranking political appointees often hide behind layers of deniability, Auten acted as a gatekeeper who controlled what intelligence reached public view, law enforcement action, or judicial scrutiny. He operated without election, confirmation, or public accountability, yet his influence was decisive. He could have stopped, corrected, or exposed failures that led to immense political, legal, and cultural upheaval. In my view, his choices contributed, directly or indirectly, to national and global harm, including unjust suffering, erosion of trust, and the manipulation of democracy itself.

My greatest disappointments in life have not been circumstances or missed opportunities, but people, specifically those I trusted, loved, and prayed for. Perhaps the failure is mine in expecting too much, in confusing talent with virtue, or in assuming that shared faith ensured shared character. I am certain that I have failed to meet the expectations of many.

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And while I do not fully understand how my own development, or Brian Auten's actions, have affected me psychologically or spiritually, I feel the weight of it. The betrayal is not only institutional or political; it is personal. It reaches into places I once considered secure: my faith, my ideals, my friendships. I find myself wondering not only how someone like Auten could fall, but how close I might have come under different circumstances. That uncertainty is unsettling. But it also affirms something vital that truth, integrity, and repentance must be pursued deliberately, not assumed by proximity, credentials, or good intentions. If he can fall, anyone can. And if we are honest, the line between failure and faithfulness often runs through the heart of each of us.

If people like us, people of faith, conviction, and sincere intent, are capable of such failures, what hope does the Church have? What hope does the nation have? The answer is not in pretending these failures do not matter, or in rationalizing them for the sake of politics or comfort. The answer is in confession, in correction, and in truth. Our hope is not in our strength, but in our willingness to be humbled. Not in the righteousness we claim, but in the grace we seek. The Church, like the Republic, is only as strong as the integrity of those who serve it, and both suffer when we trade holiness or honor for influence or security. But history and Scripture tell us that renewal does not begin in power; it begins in repentance.

Our hope is that even now, in a time of great disillusionment, God has not forsaken truth. He still raises up people who will speak honestly, act justly, and walk humbly, not because they are flawless, but because they fear the consequences of silence. If Auten's story is a warning, let ours be a response. Let us be the ones who grieve failure without excusing it, who expose deception not out of vengeance, but out of love for what is still worth saving.

While much damage has been done, it is not too late for Brian Auten to come forward, to explain what happened, and to help correct the course of the Republic. The door to truth and restoration remains open.

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